



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2007

07-45

### CHP Bait Cars Star In New Television Show

#### *"Bait Car" on Court-TV is CHP's Fourth Network TV Series*

(SACRAMENTO) – Following in the footsteps of Broderick Crawford's 1950's era "Highway Patrol", NBC's 1970's "CHiPs" and 1990's syndicated "Real Stories of The Highway Patrol," The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will be featured in its fourth network TV show in history. "Bait Car" will debut on Court TV nationwide Monday, August 6 with back-to-back episodes starting at 10 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

"Bait Car" is a reality show about the efforts of the CHP to curb vehicle theft in California. The first eight episodes were filmed in Oakland, Modesto, Stockton and Riverside/San Bernardino, among the highest vehicle theft cities in the United States.

CHP Bait Cars are unmarked vehicles that investigators leave in high theft areas. Officers then watch the vehicles as thieves enter them and drive off. The thefts are captured on video cameras and microphones hidden in the vehicles. In one case, the vehicle was stolen within 18 seconds. Through global positioning devices, officers can track where the vehicles are being driven. When a marked patrol car is in position to stop the vehicle, the engine can be remotely shut down and doors locked. The suspects are then arrested.

"We are very proud of our Bait Car program as one of the tools we use to combat car thieves," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown. "The Bait Cars are proven to have an impact on curtailing vehicle theft." In Stanislaus County, for example, vehicle theft fell 40.6 percent following deployment of Bait Cars and other anti-auto theft programs. Last year, the CHP made 357 arrests from Bait Car deployments.

In 2006, 247,896 vehicles were stolen in California; a 5.5 percent decline over 2005. Ninety percent of the vehicles were reunited with their owners.

"Bait Car" was produced by New Box Media, a Los Angeles television production company.

The vehicles used as Bait Cars are purchased with funds from the National Insurance Crime Bureau. "California's insurance companies annually contribute dozens of vehicles to law enforcement at no-cost to taxpayers in recognition of their effectiveness and the California

Highway Patrol's aggressive vehicle theft posture," said Robert M. Bryant, President and Chief Executive Officer of NICB.

"We want vehicle thieves to stop and wonder 'could this be a Bait Car?' Hopefully as the word gets out, potential thieves will realize it's not worth it to steal a car in California," said Commissioner Brown.

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